

What should I do when my child fights in school?

Establish rules for getting along with others. Teach your child to play cooperatively and talk in an acceptable manner without fighting. Rules should be consistent and followed by everyone in the home. Talk about the rules often and reward your child for following the rules. Possible rewards include verbal praise, a kiss on the cheek, a hug, having a friend over to play, staying up late, and playing a favorite game.

Make sure that you do not fight with others. Your child learns how to interact with others by watching your interactions.

Talk to your child about appropriate ways to deal with anger and frustration.

When your child fights, explain exactly what he/she is doing wrong, what he/she is supposed to be doing and why. For example, you receive a phone call about your child fighting at school, sit down with him/her and say “William, you were fighting today at school. The next time you get into a conflict with another child, you need to walk away from the situation. If you resort to fighting, you will be suspended from school.

Intervene early when your child begins to argue or threaten in order to prevent him/her from fighting. Immediately remove your child from interacting with others when he/she begins to fight.

Do not allow your child to play with children with whom he/she fights. Encourage your child to interact with those children who do not fight or threaten other children.